Welfare Fund on Kerala pattern with powers to the Construction Workers Welfare Fund Board to levy one per cent of the construction cost on works undertaken by the Central Government and its agency to conform it with Article 285 of the Constitution. It has also been decided to incorporate a provision for providing temporary shelters to construction workers coming from outside. Sir, moreover, the State Government shall have also powers to frame rules for constitution of the Fund and its administration...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI A.C. JOS : Sir, that does not form part of the Question.

MR SPEAKER . As far as the construction workers are concerned, the Bill is coming before the House You can have a long discussion on that.

DR T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Sir, I must get an opportunity to speak on this.

MR SPEAKER : Question No.24.

DR MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : Sir, let Question No.24 and Question No.27 be taken up together because they are more or less on the same subject.

MR SPEAKER : Yes, Question No.24 and Question No.27 will be clubbed together.

[Translation]

Prasar Bharti Act, 1990

+

*24 SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR
SHRI E AHAMED :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government propose to amend the Prasar Bharti (Broadcasting Corporation of India) Act 1990.

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which it is likely to be amended, and

(d) the details of the amendments proposed to be made?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C M IBRAHIM) (a) to (d) Certain changes, inter-alia in the proposed organisational structure of the Corporation, as envisaged in the Prasar Bharati Act, 1990, may be required in the light of the rapidly changing broadcasting scenario because of increased international satellite broadcasting in this part of the world A three member Expert Group has been constituted on 28.12.95 to review the provisions of the Prasar Bharati Act and to make recommendations. Further action would depend on the outcome of the recommendations of the Group.

Cancellation of Telecast of "The News Tonight"

*27. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI :
SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether telecast of the programme "The News Tonight" was cancelled by Doordarshan on June 14, 1996;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action taken against the defaulting officers?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) Yes, Sir

(b) The programme could not be telecast since the tapes were received too late from M/s NDTV to preview.

(c) Does not arise

[Translation]

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR : Mr Speaker, Sir, it appears that the intention of the Government about implementing the Prasar Bharti Bill is not clear. The previous Government should have implemented it promptly but it did not consider it This Bill was passed by the Parliament in 1990 and hon President had given his consent to it on 12 September 1990 and thereafter it was consigned to dustbin because the then government and ruling party had used it as a mouth piece. Thirty four M Ps in 1994 and 53 M.Ps in 1995 had written for its implementation.

That is why the standing Parliamentary Committee while criticising it had observed that the Government has adopted a dilly-dallying policy. Later on, the High Court of Calcutta gave its verdict and said that it should be implemented by 1995 But the Government has not paid its attention towards it. The consequence is that a three member expert team was constituted on 28 12 95. At present, Electronic media is on the threshhold of good expansion in the country as well as outside but the situation in India is worsening so much so that people do not want to see Doordarshan programmes. They are dependent on Zee TV or other channels for news and tend to rely on what is delivered on these channels At times, we are faced with very difficult situation I would like to know from hon. Minister through you, as to who

were the three members in the expert committee constituted on 28.12.95? What was their term of reference and by what time they were supposed to submit their report.

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM : This was a three member team. Hon. Sengupta jee was its chairman..*(Interruptions)* They should have submitted their report by the end of July. They have asked for extension for the second time and we have given it. I want to tell the hon. Member that the present U.F. Government is committed to it and it is also in our programme to bring the Prasar Bharti Bill with full autonomy and as soon as the report is made available, we will talk to the parties from both sides and with their suggestion in mind, efforts will be made to put forth a bill in the House

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR . Mr. Speaker, Sir, this question is very important and so many people will like to ask their questions in this regard Therefore, I want clarification on two-three points briefly. As far as my information goes, its report was to be submitted within three months latest by March But you have said about 'by the end of July'.

SHRI C M IBRAHIM : We have extended it.

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR : I want to know whether its interim report has been received? Finally, I want to ask whether you could give a dead line for it You all must be knowing the period by which your government is going to last. Therefore, you can do something before that If you give a definite date in this regard, then it will be very good.

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM . It is right that we have extended it by the end of July. The problem is that more than 40 thousand workers are working in the Doordarshan and All-India Radio, they too have got some issues, they want to include them in it. Therefore, we have said that it is better if you give it by the end of July. If the report is submitted by the end of July then we will try to implement this Act as soon as possible and as a Minister I want that

[English]

The United Front Government will definitely get the credit But, as a Minister I will also get the credit .*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR . But fix up any date

[English]

SHRI E AHAMED Sir, when the Prasar Bharati Act came into force, there was only one national network, Doordarshan Now, as has been pointed out by the Minister himself, a number of other networks, satellites and everything came into being. I want to know as to how the Government is visualising to include these segments of the electronic media also to find a place in the Prasar Bharati Act.

There was a judgement by the Supreme Court conceding the right of the public. The new airwaves belong to the public. Also there is a mention of the representation of the public in the regulatory measures of the electronic media.

I would like to ask the hon. Minister, having given the extension to the Expert Committee, whether the Government have made any reference to the Committee to look into these facts in the light of Supreme Court Judgement with respect to this media regulatory position.

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM : Definitely the Committee will look into this. We have completely thought of it also. That is why I have clarified it earlier itself. After receiving the Report of the Committee, we will keep in view the Supreme Court Judgement, all shades of opinion from all walks of life, plus all the political parties and also the opinion of the workers. Everything will be consolidated. Then only, we will bring a Bill before the House.

[Translation]

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI (Allahabad) Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like to ask about question No.27 clubbing together with question No.24 because both the questions are almost similar.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER . It is clubbed together.

[Translation]

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : My question related to "The News Tonight" programme fixed for June 24.

[English]

The Question is: Whether telecast of the programme 'The News Tonight' was cancelled by Doordarshan on June 14, 1996, if so, the reasons therefor; and the action taken against the defaulting officers?

[Translation]

Hon'ble Minister has replied to this question as "Yes Sir" it means you have cancelled that programme but your other reply is—

[English]

The programme could not be telecast since the tapes were received too late from M/s NDTV to preview. The answer given for part (c) of the Question is, "Does not arise"

[Translation]

The reply given by the hon'ble Minister is ridiculous and wrong. The Government has put censorship on Doordarshan, this is the proof of it. I would like to ask whether it is not a fact that on the same day i.e. on 14th June a programme produced by N.D.T.V was telecast on DD-3 but later on it was cancelled at night due to some comments which were inconvenient to the Government? Is it not a fact that you had received the tape 15 minutes before the fixed time and inspite of that you got it cancelled? Therefore, I would like to know from the Government whether the statement given by Shri Hegde was erased or expunged completely from the tape and the comments given by Shri J.H. Patel who is the Chief Minister and belongs to your party, were also expunged from it and the statement of Shri Biju Patnaik was also expunged? During the telecast of that programme in Hindi you got it telecast by editing and making some additions and alterations to the statement of Shri Hegde but in the English Programme it was completely expunged You knew that the comments of Shri Hegde, Shri Patel and Shri Biju Patnaik were inconvenient to your party and your Government That is why you got it expunged?

I would like to know whether the tape contained such comments or not and the exact time when the tape was received in Mandi House?

SHRI C.M IBRAHIM : Mr Speaker, Sir, the Member is a senior hon'ble Member whom I consider my Guru

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : If I have a few more pupils like you, I will be nowhere *(Interruptions)*

MR SPEAKER : Please listen.

SHRI C.M IBRAHIM Mr Speaker, Sir, he has asked whether this serial was telecast at 9 15 P.M or not? Sir, before telecast of these serials a chart is prepared in which time of telecast is given This is done in all cases and not only in case of NDTV Run down is started at 11 A.M for all the cassettes received and final run down takes place at 6 P.M complete script should reach the office by 7 P.M and the time for arrival of tape is 9 P.M i.e one hour before the telecast of the programme

But the tape in question was received in the office at 9 35 P.M There is a policy that the tape should reach the office before one hour Two tapes were received that day and it is to be ensured in the first tape that there should not be any defamatory comments in the tape as per policy There should not be anything else in the tape which is inconvenient to anyone A person has to perform his duties sincerely As far as censor is concerned, the news pertaining to the person about whom the point has been raised, has already been telecast on Doordarshan at 8.30 P.M. and 9.30 P.M. news bulletins. When we did not get that news censored during these news bulletins on Doordarshan then why we would have got it censored at 9 P.M. news? You said that they should not have made such comments. If I say in the House that a point that Doordarshan does not want to telecast, why I should disclose it as a Minister. If you have any doubt about it then.

[English]

As a Minister I will place the entire records before the Hon. Speaker because I am above suspicion. Till today I have made it a point as a Minister to see that no oral instructions will be given to any officer.

[Translation]

We have empowered them to select the programmes or news. This happened one month ago. That time, I was staying in Bangalore. Next day I came to know through newspaper that the hon'ble Minister has got it cut by issuing instructions We give autonomy in regard to telecast of the news If we try to conceal any fact, curiosity will increase to know the factual position. I would like to make it clear that it is a fact that Doordarshan had taken that decision to expunge some objectionable words from the statement

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there were several objectionable remarks in the programme sponsored by DD-3 and NDTV As soon as those remarks were put before you, you ordered to cancel that programme to be telecast at night If you think that the programme was cancelled due to late arrival of tape then it could have been telecast in the next bulletin And if you are so transparent about it that you want to place it before the Speaker then would you show that programme to the Parliamentary Committee? The second thing is that what are your views about the editing done in the statement made by Shri Hegde for the programme "Aaj Tak"

SHRI C.M IBRAHIM : Mr Speaker, Sir, there were some derogatory remarks in the news programme "Aaj Tak" and those remarks were expunged by the officers.

DR MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : May I know as to whether you have any guidelines in regard to derogatory remarks

[English]

MR SPEAKER Dr. Joshi, let him answer now

[Translation]

SHRI C.M IBRAHIM We have guidelines Prof Saheb, if you ask me about derogatory rules to find

out as to which words are derogatory one then what can I say about it.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : I am aware of that but I want to know the criteria followed by your department for considering a remark as derogatory.

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM : The code in this regard was made long time back. They have been doing their work as per this code. This has not happened for the first time. Such a thing has happened earlier seven times.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : It might happened earlier also?

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM : If it happened earlier also, what was the reason thereof? I was not a Minister at that time. It has happened seven times since 3.5.54 *(Interruptions)*

DR MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : But at that time those remarks were not passed by Shri Hegde, Shri Patnaik and Shri Patel. This is the basic thing. You have got it out deliberately *(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deogarh): Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the reply it has been mentioned by the hon. Minister that because of the non-receipt or non-arrival of the tapes the programme had to be cancelled. This seems to be ridiculous particularly in the context of the allegations involved because these tapes reportedly dealt with some internal feud of the ruling party, the Janata Dal. Therefore, some suspicion is bound to be there. Particularly, I would like to know from the hon. Minister when this matter was raised with him by the Press.

I have got the Press clipping here. He had promised a top level inquiry. I would like to know whether such an inquiry has been held or not. What are the findings of the inquiry about those who have been found guilty? What action has been taken against them? To make it quite transparent, since it involves allegations involving top people in the ruling Part and the Government, I would like to know whether he is prepared for a House Committee inquiry into this.

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM : Sir, after coming from Bangalore I asked my Director-General to submit to me the detailed report as to why this has happened. Immediately, within 24 hours, he sent me the report stating that for such and such reasons we have taken this step. When I found that they were within the purview of their rights, I accepted their action. There is no question of taking any action.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : What action has been taken?

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM : There is no question of taking any action because he has upheld the dignity of our Doordarshan. Instead of congratulating him, why should I take action against him?

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : You are talking of the dignity of Doordarshan and about transparency of the Prasar Bharti. What about your commitment for making the Prasar Bharti autonomous?. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Sir, I have asked a pointed question and he has given on evasive reply.

MR. SPEAKER : I think the Minister has replied.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Sir, I need your protection.

MR. SPEAKER : He has said that he has got the report. He got the enquiry done and anybody was found at fault. So, where is the question of taking any action? Let us listen to the former Information and Broadcasting Minister, Shri P. Upendra. The former Information and Broadcasting Minister will enlighten us a little more.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : I would like to know whether he is prepared for a House Committee probe.

[Translation]

PROF. OM PAL SINGH 'NIDAR': Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether Doordarshan has any dignity? If Doordarshan has any dignity then I would like to know what is that Doordarshan which is without dignity.

[English]

SHRI P. UPENDRA : Sir, it is very unfortunate that the Prasar Bharti Act which was passed with rare unanimity in the Parliament after a nationwide debate, has not been implemented during the last six years. At that time, the prime concern was about the autonomy of the electronic media. Subsequently the Minister called a meeting to consider the amendments to the Act. Some of us were present in that meeting. We approved those minor amendments. Now, the Minister also is telling that some amendments are required. But, I feel, in view of the drastic changes which have come about in the electronic media scene, more amendments are not enough. Now, the whole Act has to be revisad. So some of us met and suggested that a new comprehensive Broadcasting Bill be brought before the Parliament to cover not only the Doordarshan and A.I.R. but also the satellite TV, the cable network and also, in view of the Supreme Court Judgement the uplinking facilities and all that. All these aspects have to be covered in the Act. Britain has passed a comprehensive Broadcasting Act. We prepared a model Bill and sent it to the Prime Minister and predecessor Ministers also.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he has seen that draft Bill which we have prepared and sent to him, or not, and whether he is thinking on those lines. I would also like to know whether a comprehensive Broadcasting Bill will be brought before the Parliament or is he merely going to tinker with the amendments to the Prasar Bharti Act which is not relevant, in my view, in the present context.

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM : Yes, Sir. I agree with what he has said. I have already said that I am waiting for the report of the Committee. Once the report is submitted, I shall consider all the points mentioned by the hon. Member.

SHRI P. UPENDRA : We suggested something else, that is, bringing up a new comprehensive Bill.

MR SPEAKER : The question is whether you are thinking of going into the amendment of the Act as it exists today or whether there is any rethinking for coming up with a comprehensive Broadcasting Bill.

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM : Sir, what I have said is that we might consider bringing up a comprehensive Bill. Once the report is presented, we would like to have a discussion again and I want to involve everybody in this.

SHRI P. UPENDRA : What are the terms of reference of that Committee that was appointed? ...*(Interrutpions)*

MR SPEAKER : You have put your question already. Why are you again asking?

(Interruptions)

SHRI E. AHAMED : The Committee is considering the amendments to the Act. How will the Government be able to bring a comprehensive Bill? You say the Government should make up its mind. That is the point.

MR SPEAKER : You do not suggest. The Minister knows his job. Why are you suggesting ?

(Interruptions)

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM : Sir, I have taken note of the suggestion.

SHRI ROOPCHAND PAL : Sir, in the reply it has been stated that an expert group consisting of three Members is to submit a report and the future of the Prasar Bharati Act will, to some extent, depend on the recommendations. The Supreme Court has given the judgement that the airwaves are a public property. That was a historic judgement. In the light of this and also in the light of the rapid technological changes that are taking place in information technology and communication technology a large number of people have been persistently demanding that the Government should have a national media policy because a good number of developing countries, far too inferior in many areas of technology to India, are also having their own national media policy. In response to the persistent demand made by the responsible quarters and also by several M.Ps., the Ministry has set up a sub-committee.

MR SPEAKER : Please ask the question. Do not go into the history. You know the history so much.

SHRI ROOPCHAND PAL : Yes sir I am coming to that. That sub-committee was chaired by two Ministers belonging to the U.F. Government—first by hon. Shri P. Chidambaram and subsequently by hon. Shri Ram Vilas Paswan. They had submitted a report with comprehensive recommendations relating to the satellite channel, Prasar Bharati autonomy, print media, film media and many such things. On 29th of March this year the report was submitted to the then Minister of Information and Broadcasting and our present hon. Speaker.

May I know from the hon. Minister as to what is the response of the Government and whether any study has been made and whether the Government is ready to accept the report and prepare legislation in the light of these recommendations?

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Will the former Minister answer?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM : I have already made it clear that while bringing the Bill before the House we will incorporate all the views to uphold the prestige of both A.I.R. and Doordarshan.

[Translation]

Hon. Member, Shri Upendraji has said that the scenario has undergone a change. There is Supreme Court's judgement. Doordarshan and All India Radio workers are Government servants who do not want to become Corporation workers. Their views have also to be incorporated in it because we have also to keep in mind the problem of fifty thousand workers.

Secondly, we are solving the problem arising on the earth but it can also be considered as to what can we do for things reaching through satellites? Do not think that all this will be done by the United Front Government. It would be better if these things are done unanimously. It is Indian culture and it symbolises-India. Therefore, I want to introduce this Bill with the consensus of the House.

[English]

SHRI ROOPCHAND PAL (Hooghly) : I want to know whether the Government is aware of any such report. What is the reaction of the Government?

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM : I think you want the answer in English.

Sir, I have understood what the hon. Member has said. As far as the Supreme Court judgement is concerned, we are looking into it.

MR SPEAKER : The specific question is on the report of the Committee headed by Shri Paswan on media policy. That is what he is asking.

SHRI SARAD PAWAR : It was submitted to Shri P.A. Sangma.

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM : Sir, I have given it to the Ministry to evolve it and after getting the said expert Committee's report and keeping in view the Supreme Court judgement and also the views of workers we will take action. We have to involve all. It should be a comprehensive one. Based on one report I cannot take any decision.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Meenaji, I called your name but you were not present in the House. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI BHERU LAL MEENA : I have also to ask something.

MR SPEAKER : Meenaji, I called your name but you were not present in the House.

[English]

PROF PJ KURIEN : Sir, I am raising a question which should be a matter of concern for all of us. Today, there is not only Doordarshan but also various other private networks. Most of the programmes shown by these private television networks are alien to our culture and tradition. These programmes are so detrimental to our national interests also that I have no doubt that continuance of these types of programmes through the electronic media will certainly have adverse effect on our future, especially the youth of our country because most of these programmes are alien to our culture.

MR SPEAKER : We are not talking on the point of programmes.

PROF PJ KURIEN : Sir, what I am coming to is, since the Government is contemplating a comprehensive Act- the Prasar Bharati Act - I am only asking the Government whether they are aware of this problem and whether they have got any plan to see that through the Prasar Bharati Act, some control should be enforceable on these networks so that the kind of cultural invasion at least to a certain extent, be got rid of.

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM : Sir, I have already answered this question. I have told that at the time of bringing the Prasar Bharati Bill before the Parliament, we will definitely keep in view all these aspects in relation to whichever channels and whichever waves are coming to India.

MR SPEAKER : Sushmaji.

(Interruptions)

MR SPEAKER : I request the hon. Members not to disturb the former Information and Broadcasting Minister. I would allow one more former Minister to speak.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to thank you for promising an opportunity to each and every former Information and Broadcasting Minister to ask supplementary question. Perhaps, it is a brotherhood gesture since you are also a former Information and Broadcasting Minister. The hon. Information and Broadcasting Minister of the present Government has reiterated our commitment to implement Prasar Bharati. But his gesture shows that instead of according autonomous status to Government media, he wants to have complete grip over it. we have two examples in this regard. One has been mentioned by Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi in his question as to how he censored 'The News Tonight' because of an inconvenient remark. Secondly, through you, I would like to inform the hon. Information and Broadcasting Minister that the Committee mentioned by him on Prasar Bharati, was to present its report on March 31, but so far, it has not presented even its interim report. The committee, during my tenure, had asked for extension but I told the committee to present interim report first. I had called three members for meeting, then it was to be decided whether extension should be given or not and if it is to be given, upto what time? Why did you decide to grant extension till July reversing the previous decision?

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have already replied to the first part that I believe in Prasar Bharati and not in Censor Bharati. Secondly, so far as the interim report is concerned, you too would have seen.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : When it was not presented, how could I see?

[English]

They have not submitted any interim report as yet.

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM : I want, I will not believe in piecemeal.

[Translation]

If they want to submit report, they will have to submit the complete report and not in parts because it will not serve any purpose.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Then never ask for interim report.

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM : Interim report does not serve any purpose. It would have wanted my time also. Therefore, instead of presenting incomplete report I will present the complete one.

[English]

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is clear from the hon. Minister's reply that he would not

like to do anything by half measures and he would like the full thing. I recall that there was a commitment on this very floor of Parliament by the P.V. Narasimha Rao Government that the Government would bring a comprehensive broadcasting law which would include the Prasar Bharati and the Regulatory Authority and it was done as a consequence of the Supreme Court Judgement. I would like to know whether the Prasar Bharati amendment is going on, whether it will form part of the comprehensive broadcasting law and whether it will also incorporate the Supreme Court judgement and its observations regarding the Regulatory Authority. I would also like to know as to how long it will take for the Government to bring it before the Parliament so that we get the opportunity of discussing it here.

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM : Sir, I have already answered this question. I think the hon Member was not present here at that time But I am very happy to answer it again. Definitely we want to bring a comprehensive Bill. We will keep all the aspects in view.

As far as the interim report is concerned, I agree that there are certain cases where we need the interim report. But in this case, if I take the interim report I cannot do anything. So, I did not demand for the interim report. I asked them to give a full and final report. They have extended the time till the 31st July and once the report comes, as I told earlier also, we will involve specially all the former Information and Broadcasting Ministers in the discussions. I will have individual discussion with them and also with all the political parties We will uphold the Government's programme also The previous Government also had made this commitment We know it. That is why I made it clear that this Prasar Bharati Bill should be passed unanimously.

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO Sir, the commitment was that the Prasar Bharati and the Regulatory Authority will be components, will be part and parcel of the comprehensive broadcasting law Is this Government separately getting the Prasar Bharati, the comprehensive broadcasting law and the Regulatory Authority or will they all be part of the comprehensive broadcasting law?

MR SPEAKER I think what the Minister has said is that he has not taken any final view He is collecting all the inputs

SHRI K P SINGH DEO Sir, he is answering on the interim report of the Expert Committee That was not my question The commitment was that the comprehensive broadcasting law would incorporate the Supreme Court Judgement and the observations, the Regulatory Authority and the Prasar Bharati What is the present state of the comprehensive broadcasting law? I want to know whether it will incorporate all these things or whether these things are coming separately

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM : Sir, again and again I am saying that after getting the report of the Committee, if we are thinking of a comprehensive Bill.

[Translation]

I would see as to how it can be incorporated. I would consider all the suggestions given by you prior to presenting the report to the Parliament.

[English]

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, is the Minister aware of the fact that there are six former Information and Broadcasting Ministers, including you, present in the House?

MR. SPEAKER : All of then will be given equal opportunity.

[Translation]

Constitution of Separate Bodies

+

*25. DR. MAHADEEPAK SINGH SHAKYA
PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state .

(a) whether several committees constituted by the Government during the previous years have recommended to constitute separate bodies for Local Self-Government in the tribal dominated areas for the welfare of the tribes,

(b) if so, the progress made in the implementation of the above recommendations, and

(c) the time by which separate bodies are likely to be constituted for Local Self-Government in the tribal dominated areas?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) (a) Department of Rural Development in Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment and Ministry of Urban Affairs and Employment had set up two separate Committees of M Ps and Experts to make recommendations on the salient features of the law for extending the provisions of Constitution (73rd Amendment) Act, 1992 and (74th Amendment) Act, 1992 to the Scheduled Areas which are pre-dominantly inhabited by the Scheduled Tribes

(b) and (c) Both the Committees have submitted their reports to the Government of India The Department of Rural Areas and employment is actively processing the matter in consultation with concerned Administrative Ministries and State Governments for implementing the recommendations contained in aforesaid reports Ministry of Urban